

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 13-26, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter claimed therein.

Please amend Claims 5, 6, and 7 by replacing them with the following Rewritten Claims. A copy of the Marked-up Claims is attached for the Examiner's convenience.

Rewritten Claims

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5. (Once Amended) A shoe as in claim 3, wherein said load distributor is a series of stepped notches.

6. (Once Amended) A shoe as in claim 3, wherein said load distributor is a contoured recess.

7. (Once Amended) A shoe as in claim 1, wherein said force redirector provides pivotal movement of said upper surface.

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REMARKS

Consideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claim 1 is independent.